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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 006945

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR NEA OPS CENTER  
SES-O PLEASE PASS TO THE HURRICANE KATRINA TASK FORCE

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: HURRICANE KATRINA, RECOGNIZING EGYPTIAN  
ASSISTANCE

REF: STATE 164132

1. Summary: The GOE has sent two C-130 aircraft with relief supplies for Katrina victims. Senior Embassy officials have made televised statements and issued a press release to express U.S. gratitude. End summary.

2. The Government of Egypt has agreed to donate the following items to American victims of Hurricane Katrina:

- 20,000 blankets
- 8 tons of water
- 3 tons (approximately) of medical supplies
- 10,000 sets underwear
- up to 20 tons of macaroni
- unspecified amount jam (fruit preserves)

3. Yesterday, Tuesday, September 6, two Egyptian Air Force C-130 aircraft left Cairo with the first shipment, headed for the United States. The U.S. military is also lending the use of its aircraft to this effort. To commemorate the donation of this aid, Major General Byron S. Bagby, Chief of the Office of Military Cooperation at the American Embassy in Cairo, participated in a televised ceremony at the Cairo-east military airport, in which he thanked the Egyptians for their donation. In addition, the Public Affairs Section of the American Embassy in Cairo issued a press release conveying the thanks of Ambassador Ricciardone, on behalf of President Bush and the American people, for this humanitarian gesture. The texts of Major General Bagley and the Ambassador's remarks follow below in this message. Both sets of remarks have been posted on the Embassy's web page and the attention of all of the media outlets in Cairo have been drawn to them.

4. Text of American Embassy Cairo, Press Release, September 6, 2005

The United States Expresses Gratitude to Government of Egypt for Aid to the Victims of Hurricane Katrina

On behalf of President Bush and the American people, Ambassador Ricciardone expresses his gratitude to the Government of Egypt for its assistance to the victims of Hurricane Katrina, which is being provided under the auspices of the Ministry of Defense. Ambassador Ricciardone wishes to affirm the United States' deep appreciation for the kindness and compassion that Egypt has shown in response to the devastation and dislocation of people in the southeastern United States. This donation is, moreover, a tangible demonstration of the close friendship between our two countries that will long be remembered. Today, the first of these deliveries will leave Cairo on two Egyptian Air Force C-130 transport planes, carrying blankets, water, medical supplies, food, and clothes. Today, Chief of the Office of Military Cooperation at the American Embassy, Major General Byron S. Bagby, will also personally deliver words of thanks to Major General Fouad Abdul Halim, Advisor to the Minister of Defense, at a small ceremony at the Cairo-East military airport, the site of the airlift efforts.

5. Remarks of Major General Byron S. Bagby, Chief of the Office of Military Cooperation, American Embassy Cairo, Cairo East Airport, Cairo, Egypt, September 6, 2005

Good Afternoon, I am Major General Byron Bagby. I am the Chief of the Office of Military Cooperation here in Egypt. On behalf of Ambassador Francis Ricciardone, I want to express my most sincere appreciation for the generous donation of relief supplies that the Ministry of Defense is donating to the United States. Ambassador Ricciardone will express his thanks to the Field Marshall in a couple of days in person and will also send a letter to him this afternoon.

The Egyptian Ministry of Defense noticed that

Americans were suffering as a result of the devastation from Hurricane Katrina. They immediately stepped forward to offer donations that will help us with the relief effort. Some of the items that they are donating are twenty thousand blankets, eight tons of water, about three tons of medical supplies, plus some food and clothing items. In addition to making a donation as large as they are making, Egypt is also providing two of their Egyptian Air Force aircraft to make the first two donation flights to the United States. They will depart this afternoon. Other United States aircraft will follow later in the week with the remainder of the supplies.

I believe that this donation illustrates just how strong the bond is between the United States and the Arab Republic of Egypt. They're always there to help other people. It's not just this donation that they are making; but they've also made humanitarian donations to Sudan, to Afghanistan, as well as having a field hospital in Afghanistan that provides support and is a part of the combined task force that supports Operation Enduring Freedom. On behalf of Ambassador Riccardone, the Ambassador of the United States, I again express my sincere appreciation to the Egyptian Ministry of Defense for their generous donation that demonstrates exactly how strong the bond is between our two nations.

RICCIARDONE